

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 30, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the drawings have been amended to include reference numeral 3 in FIG 1, in conformance with the specification, such as page 3, line 8-9 and 17, for example. A replacement sheet including FIG 1 is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggested adding headings to the specification. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the

headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-4 for certain informalities. In response, claims 1-3 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-4 is respectfully requested. Further, claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-3 and 5 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.


In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4-5 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 4. In addition, new independent claim 6 has been added that also include

the features of allowable claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 6 be allowed. In addition, as claims 2-3 and 7-13 depend from independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-3 and 7-13 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 1)  
New Abstract

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